

# WHAT'S HAPPENING WEDNESDAY

## Kansas Immunization Program

June 5, 2019

### VFC Consultant On-Call

The Consultant On-Call can be reached Monday—Friday, 8 a.m.—5 p.m. at 785-296-5592.



## CHIEF CHAT

The long-awaited 2019 Kansas Immunization Conference is next week! We look forward to once again gathering in Salina with the heroes of the immunization efforts from across Kansas.

On Tuesday, June 11, we will again host the pre-conference in a more informal manner with multiple workshops being offered between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. In addition to the hands-on immunization practice workshops, there will be a table top exercise dealing with outbreaks as well as annual update presentations from the TB and STI programs available for participants to select from starting at the top of each hour.

On Wednesday, we will kick off the official conference with an opening keynote address on what we have learned about vaccine hesitancy from the introduction of the HPV vaccine and how to overcome the challenges. There will be more than 20 breakouts to choose from across three breakout sessions (some of these are repeated) as well as other great plenary speakers.

Several vendors will be in attendance with plenty of time to talk with them about how they may be a partner to you in your practice. We will also honor the outstanding work of our providers who have the highest vaccination rates across the state and meet the 2019 Kansas Childhood Immunization Champion.

The conference will close Thursday afternoon as we hear from a survivor of meningitis. Her story will serve to remind us why we do what we do and maybe inspire us to dig in a little deeper in our effort to assure all Kansans are fully vaccinated on time. It is truly our hope that all who attend the conference will leave with new information and new tools to remind parents that “Vaccines Cause Adults” and also adults need vaccines as well.

As most all staff from the Kansas Immunization Program will be attending the conference in Salina, responses to emails and phone calls may be delayed, but we will continue to strive to meet your needs as quickly as possible. There will be staff in the office to triage calls while staff at the conference will be remotely monitoring emails and phone calls.

## In This Issue

### Chief Chat

Page 1

### Injection of Education Influenza Surveillance

Page 2

### Measles Information

Page 3

### Kansas Immunization Conference 2019

Page 4

### KAFP Meeting

Page 5

**What's Happening  
Wednesday will not be  
published June 12 due to the  
Immunization Conference.**



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# INJECTION OF EDUCATION

As measles cases continue to grow this year, many social media sites are beginning to limit anti-vaccine messages. The World Health Organization (WHO) listed vaccine hesitancy as one of the [Ten threats to global health in 2019](#). Many parents might just be hesitant to vaccinate their children due to a lack of knowledge. With your recommendation and encouragement along with reputable information and facts, they can move from being vaccine hesitant to having confidence and protecting themselves and their children from vaccine preventable diseases.

How comfortable are you with discussing vaccines and countering misinformation? Vaxopedia, a website created in 2016 by pediatrician Vincent Iannelli, M.D., is another resource available to help you answer questions and counter misinformation. Vaxopedia's article [50 Ways to Get Educated About Vaccines](#), offers multiple links throughout the article to sites such as the Immunization Action Coalition, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), WHO and other newsletters and articles. From this one article alone, countless links are available to help you become more confident in

Although it may seem that influenza season is just winding down, it's important to plan in a timely manner for the next season. May and June are good months to start planning your schedule for when influenza vaccines are delivered and when your office can start administering vaccine. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) offers guidance for preparing for the next influenza season on its website.

Visit AAP's [Influenza Implementation Guidance 2018–2019: For Pediatricians, Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Nurses, Medical Assistants, and Office Managers](#) web section. Please note, although this page is dated 2018–2019, most of the guidance should still be relevant. AAP will update the page if needed, when ACIP publishes its influenza recommendations for the 2019–20 season.

## Influenza Surveillance May 29



Influenza activity has returned to baseline levels across Kansas. The Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) sites monitor patients for influenza-like illness (ILI) – symptoms include a fever ( $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) and the presence of a cough and/or sore throat.

During the week ending May 11<sup>th</sup>, ILINet sites reported 0.9% of visits were due to ILI.

Syndromic surveillance indicated 1.3% of visits to emergency departments in Kansas were due to ILI. All data is subject to change.

Thirty-four influenza outbreaks have been reported to KDHE this season. Stay updated on influenza activity at <http://www.kdheks.gov/flu/surveillance.htm>.





# Updates and Responses About Measles Outbreaks in the U.S. and

## Total number of U.S. measles cases for 2019 climbs to 940 in 26 states, with 60 new cases reported since last week

CDC has posted its latest update on 2019 measles cases in the U.S. on its [Measles Cases and Outbreaks](#) web page. The web page shows a preliminary estimate of 940 cases across 26 states as of May 24. This is the greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since 1994 and since measles was declared eliminated in 2000.

The states that have reported cases to CDC are Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Tennessee and Washington.

## Over 100,000 people sick with measles in 14 months: with measles cases at an alarming level in the European Region, WHO scales up response


WHO is scaling up its response to the ongoing measles outbreaks in the European Region, including creating an operational platform to accelerate its support to affected countries.

The decision followed an assessment of the measles situation in the Region. It was based on the growing number of children and adults affected by and dying from the disease, and the persistence of pockets of non-immunized or under-immunized individuals in many countries fuelling the continuing spread of measles.

Since Jan. 1, 2018, 47 of the 53 countries in the Region have together reported over 100,000 measles cases and over 90 measles-related deaths. WHO has been supporting them over time to improve their immunization coverage and tackle disease spread. However, as measles continues to circulate across countries, more needs to be done.

“We have observed an unprecedented upsurge in people sick with this preventable disease, and too many have lost their lives to it,” says Dr. Dorit Nitzan, Acting Regional Emergency Director at the WHO Regional Office for Europe. “This is unacceptable and we need to be bolder and scale up our response to the next level. I am proud to see that different parts and levels of WHO are intensifying their combined efforts to stop these outbreaks.”

“WHO has been working closely with countries in the European Region to enhance their capacity to protect children from measles. However, this alarming resurgence is a warning that the Region’s immunization coverage is not yet sufficient,” explains Dr. Masoud Dara, Acting Director of Communicable Diseases at the WHO Regional Office for Europe. “Escalating our response will enable us to raise political awareness and will help in strengthening European health systems in the longer term to



**CONSIDER MEASLES**

in patients presenting with febrile rash illness and clinically compatible measles symptoms (cough, coryza, and conjunctivitis)

**Ask patients about recent travel** internationally or to domestic venues frequented by international travelers, as well as a history of measles in the community.

[www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp/index.html)

